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SIPDIS

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/24/2018

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SUBJECT: TURKEY: UNANSWERED QUESTIONS ON NOV 13-14 BAKU
SUMMIT

Classified By: Economic Counselor Dale Eppler for reasons 1.4 (B) and (D)

¶1. (C) Turkish MFA Energy Department First Secretary Berris Ekinici contacted the Embassy October 23 in hopes of learning more about the Nov 13-14 Baku Energy Summit. Ekinici expressed frustration about the lack of information from Baku and said the government of Azerbaijan had failed to respond to a GOT request to clarify whether the Baku Summit was a follow-on event to the European Energy Security meetings held in Vilnius and Kyiv. Ekinici said the MFA had previously determined that local ambassadors would attend that series of energy meetings because the energy projects discussed (e.g. Odessa-Brody, Nord Stream) do not directly affect Turkey.

¶2. (C) Ekinici said the GOT had not yet decided who will attend the Baku Summit but most likely a Minister-level official would lead the delegation. Ekinici noted that Azerbaijan President Aliev had invited President Abdullah Gul to the summit when the two met in September. While Gul gave a positive response to Aliev it was not clear at that time what shape the summit would take.

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WILSON